



UK-China
Sustainable Agriculture
Innovation Network

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Policies

China unveils plan for pollution treatment in rural areas

[Xinhua, 08-11-2018] China unveiled a plan on Thursday 8 November to resolve crucial environmental problems in rural areas to foster sound ecological environment.

Jointly released by the Ministry of Ecology and Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, the plan aims to facilitate green development, improve the ecological environment and strengthen environmental supervision in rural areas.

The plan listed several measures of rural pollution control by 2020. It is also required by the plan to reduce the use of chemical fertilizer and pesticide in farming and overall agricultural water consumption.

Click [here](#) for details

Chinese premier underlines farmland water conservation

[Xinhua, 14-11-2018] Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has stressed the importance of stepping up the country's construction of farmland water conservation projects.

In an instruction issued to a conference held Wednesday 14 November, Li said the building of basic farmland water conservation projects was crucial to ensure China's grain safety and enhance the development of modern agriculture. While further enhancing the construction of farmland water projects and other major water conservation projects, China should attach importance to raising those projects' capacity of disaster prevention and relief, Li said.

Efforts should also be made to encourage farmers to participate in the construction and daily maintenance of those projects, the premier said.

Click [here](#) for details

Construction examined in deaths of rare fish

[China Daily, 23-11-2018] The construction of a bridge in Jingzhou, Hubei province, which allegedly caused the death of about 6,000 critically endangered Chinese sturgeon at a breeding facility, has been halted, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs.

An investigative team, assembled by the ministry's Yangtze River Fisheries Administration and the Hubei agricultural bureau, arrived in Jingzhou to investigate the deaths said to be caused by the construction of the Miyue Bridge in the city's Jinan ecocultural tourism zone, an official from the administration said.

Part of the construction was allegedly carried out in national nature reserves, which is illegal, he said. The result of the investigation was not available as of Thursday night.

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Shenzhen pilot program regulates drones

[China Daily, 21-11-2018] Shenzhen has moved a step forward in regulating the booming industry for unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, as the southern city in Guangdong province launched a trial traffic management program on Monday, 19 November.

The trial program aims to regulate flight activities of civilian UAVs, guide users in flying drones legally and ensure public safety.

The UAV industry has seen robust development in China over the past few years, with drones being applied in a wide variety of fields, including rescue operations, surveying and mapping, agriculture and traffic control. Drones for recreational use are also on the rise.

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China cuts 2019 minimum purchase price for wheat for second year

[Reuters, 16-11-2018] China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) said on Friday it had set the minimum purchasing price for wheat in 2019 at 112 yuan (\$16.14) per 50 kg, or 2,240 yuan a tonne.

The price is down from this year's 2,300 yuan per tonne and the second year in a row that the government has reduced its price support for wheat growers.

Beijing made the price adjustment to help whittle down the nation's huge grain stocks, and to push farmers to grow more high quality crops, the NDRC, the country's state economic planner, said in a separate statement published on its website on Friday.

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China contributes greatly to curbing global hunger, food security, says FAO chief

[04-11-2018] China has made great achievements in curbing hunger and increasing food security, both domestically and globally, since the launch of its reform and opening-up 40 years ago, according to Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

"When China began giving small farmers the possibility of having their own cultivations and selling a part of their products, we saw an increase in output and productivity," said Graziano da Silva, speaking of the reforms introduced in late 1970s in China in a recent interview with Xinhua.

China lifted 80 million people out of hunger in what Graziano da Silva called "the most successful program that I know of in the world".

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CCAMLR Receives Donation from MARA

[MARA, 22-11-2018] The Bureau of Fisheries of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA) and the Secretariat of Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) held a talk on November 20, 2018, and they exchanged their views on revising the notification fee of fishing access, donating the auction money of Patagonian toothfish and notifying import and export data of Patagonian toothfish in China.

The two sides agreed to set up the China fund in CCAMLR with the aim of strengthening capacity building of developing countries. During the talk, the Secretariat of CCAMLR received the donation of auction money of Patagonian toothfish from the Chinese side.

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Science, Technology and Environment

Scientists warn of less water supply over melting glacier after 2060

[Xinhua, 12-11-2018] Chinese scientists have warned that the melting glaciers in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, known as the world's Third Pole, will cause a reduced water supply in coming decades, affecting billions of people downstream.

The plateau, with tens of thousands of glaciers, is the headwaters of Asia's 10 largest rivers, including the Yangtze, Yellow, Indus, Yarlung Zangbo and Syr Darya rivers, which provide water for three billion people across Asia.

By 2060 to 2070, rising temperatures due to climate change will lead to ever-stronger glacier retreat on the plateau, and rivers fed by the seasonal melting will provide less freshwater, said

Yao Tandong, an award-winning glaciologist and director of the Institute of Tibetan Plateau Research with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

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A life of combating bird flu

[Xinhua, 17-11-2018] For the first time in the past five years, scientists at China's National Avian Influenza Reference Laboratory were able to spend the weeklong Chinese Lunar New Year holiday in February with their families.

Chen Hualan, director of the laboratory, led her team to this victory after a five-year battle against H7N9 bird flu viruses.

Chen, a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, is one of the top virologists in the world and is devoted to saving lives.

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Nation continues to improve animal welfare

[China Daily, 27-11-2018] The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will continue cooperating with China on farm animal welfare to help improve animal health and food safety, the organization's China representative said.

China has made quick progress in farm animal welfare, although it is taking time for full public recognition of the issue, said Vincent Martin, the UN's FAO representative for China and the DPRK.

Xi Chunling, vice-president of the China Association for the Promotion of International Agricultural Cooperation, which hosted the second World Conference on Farm Animal Welfare with the FAO in Beijing last month, said China has promoted raising farm animals, such as pigs, cattle and chicken, in a healthier and more environmentally friendly way, and in certain areas it has been on par with some developed countries in ensuring welfare for farm animals.

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Traditional Chinese medicine helps promote sustainable agriculture

[Xinhua, 17-11-2018] Traditional Chinese medicine helps promote sustainable agriculture, as it offers a holistic approach to disease prevention while using organic herbal products often grown by small-scale family farmers, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) chief said Saturday 17 November.

Jose Graziano da Silva, the FAO Director-General, made the remarks at the 15th World Congress of Chinese Medicine (WCCM) in Rome, a two-day event hosted by the Italian Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Italian Association of Acupuncture.

He pointed out that traditional Chinese medicine helps promote sustainable agricultural by sparking the demand for organic and herbal products in many parts of the world, offering an interesting market for family farming.

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E-commerce behemoth's fintech platform unveils brand upgrade

[China Daily, 21-11-2018] JD Finance, a leading fintech platform in China, announced the upgrade of its brand on Tuesday 20 November with the unveiling of JD Digits, indicating the company's drive towards integrating advanced digital technologies into more sectors.

JD Digits also announced the launch of the JD agriculture and husbandry academic research program.

In the field of agriculture, JD Digits is applying artificial intelligence, internet of things, robotics and computing to digitalize traditional agriculture practices, helping to reduce farmers' costs while improving agricultural efficiency. This solution has been successfully introduced to the pig-breeding industry, where it has practically proven to decrease costs by 30 to 50 percent.

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Fish species on brink of extinction as water quality declines

[China Daily, 19-11-2018] Yangtze River is home to 424 types of fish, of which 183 are endemic, and the categories of freshwater fish in the river comprise 33 percent of the national total.

But President Xi Jinping has said that the country's longest river is almost a "fish desert".

The State Council, China's Cabinet, urged local governments to strengthen protection of aquatic species and accelerate restoration of the Yangtze's ecological environment.

According to experts, excessive and disorderly development of water control projects has had the "gravest influence" on the waterway's ecology.

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Water diversion helps central plain shake off poverty past

[Xinhua, 26-11-2018] In Henan, one of the most populous provinces in China, agriculture has been the main driver of economic growth for centuries.

Over 40 years of reform and opening-up, the farmland in Henan benefiting from the water diverted from the Yellow River has expanded from 96,700 hectares to 906,700 hectares.

Over the past four decades, places like the counties of Yuanyang and Yanjin have been transformed from a hostile environment for agricultural production to home to some of the most recognizable brands of farm produce in the country.

Some credit goes to a sophisticated digital control system that improves the efficiency and sustainability of the water diversion operations.

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China lays solid foundation for halting carbon emissions rise by 2030

[Xinhua, 26-11-2018] China has laid a solid foundation for fulfilling its pledge to halt the rise in carbon dioxide emissions by around 2030, said Xie Zhenhua, the country's special representative for climate change affairs Monday 26 November.

By 2017, China's carbon intensity, or the amount of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP, had dropped about 46 percent from 2005 levels, meeting the target of a 40-45 percent drop by 2020, Xie said at a press conference.

The share of renewable energy in China's primary energy consumption stood at 13.8 percent at the end of last year, Xie said. "Although there is still some distance from the goal of 15 percent, the target will definitely be met by 2020."

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China, Britain eye further exchanges of personnel in science, innovation

[Xinhua, 30-11-2018] China and Britain should strengthen exchanges of personnel in the field of science and innovation, said a senior Chinese official.

Zhang Jianguo, Vice Minister of Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, said China-Britain exchanges of personnel in science and technology have entered a "Golden Era" with more than 40,000 British experts working in China each year, forming a major part of driving force for China-Britain innovation.

China will adopt more active and open policies to welcome foreign experts and professionals, Zhang said.

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ADB approves loan to supports agriculture, environmental protection

[Xinhua, 16-11-2018] The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 300-million-U.S. dollar loan to promote sustainable agriculture systems and protect the ecology in the upper and middle reaches of China's Yangtze River.

According to ADB, the loan will finance the construction and provision of modern farming systems in the project areas, including construction of 1,326 kilometers of irrigation and drainage infrastructure, along with 3,535 water storage ponds; providing equipment and materials to implement sustainable and modern farming practices, including farm machinery and greenhouses; improving waste and environment management systems such as promoting collection of plastics, building biogas plants to deal with animal waste, and promoting the use of organic fertilizers.

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Trade and Business

Chinese dairy giant Yili group attended UK Food Matters Live exhibition

[Fortune Herald, 23-11-2018] Food Matters Live, as the first cross-sector event in the UK and the leading food event of the world, is back at ExCeL on 20th November for its 2018 instalment, which attracted global attention. More than 550 companies attended the exhibition with the newest food tech and innovations and more than 20,000 experts and audiences discussed current issues such as the relationship between health and nutrition during the event.

The Chinese brand, PRO-KIDO®, the master formula brand of China's largest dairy enterprise, Yili Group caught attendees' eyes. PRO-KIDO® was the first Asian formula brand invited by FML and was a "Best Better-for-You Ingredient of the Year" award finalist, which proves the high quality of Chinese dairy industry to the world.

Much of the success of Yili's PRO-KIDO® should be attributed to their 16-year research on Chinese breast milk.

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Where's the beef? On its way to China

[Bloomberg, 23-11-2018] China, a nation of pork lovers, has developed an appetite for overseas beef that could see it buying record amounts this year.

The biggest consumer of global commodities boosted beef imports by almost 80 percent in October from a year earlier to 92,435 tons, customs data showed. That brings this year's shipments to more than 830,000 tons, on pace for an annual record. Meanwhile, pork purchases fell 2.2 percent last month, with beef imports eclipsing pork for a third month.

“Beef imports this year are set for a record high as more Chinese shift to high-quality meat,” said Zhu Cong, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing. “The country has opened its market to more countries.”

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China's customs data release shows Sept soybean imports from Brazil jump

[Reuters, 01-11-2018] China's purchases of Brazilian soybeans in September jumped 28 percent from the prior year, data from the General Administration of Customs showed on Thursday, 1 November as buyers stocked up ahead of an expected shortfall in the fourth quarter.

This is the first time that China has provided data on the country of origin for its commodity imports since the month of March.

China typically buys most of its soybeans in the fourth quarter from the United States but has sharply reduced its purchases of American beans amid an ongoing trade war.

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China's top pig farming firm to follow new lower protein feed standards

[Reuters, 14-11-2018] China's top pig farming company Wens Foodstuffs Group Co Ltd will comply with new government-backed guidelines on lower protein in animal feed, a company executive said, adding however that the impact on its operations would be minimal

China's Feed Industry Association last month approved new standards for pig and chicken feeds, with lower protein levels as Beijing seeks to reduce its consumption of soymeal amid an ongoing trade spat with major soybean supplier the United States.

Wens Foodstuff is China's top producer of pigs, slaughtering more than 10 million pigs in the first half of the year, and 330 million chickens.

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China launches its own wine rating system

[The Drink Business, 21-11-2018] In China's most affirmative move yet to demonstrate its clout as a leading wine consumer, the country has unveiled a new wine rating system designed to evaluate imported and domestically produced wines, based on Chinese tastes, shunning a set of established international wine rating systems such as the 100-point system favoured by international wine critics.

The system was officially introduced on 18 November in Shanghai by China Alcoholic Drinks Association (CADA) – the country's official regulatory and trade body for all alcoholic beverages including beer, wine and spirits – China National Food Industry Association and the Chinese Society for Horticultural Science.

The launch of the wine rating system was hailed as “a show of confidence” in the country's own wine production capacity, its wine industry and its consumer market, according to CADA.

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China to double agricultural trade with Japan, ROK in 10 years

[Xinhua, 10-11-2018] China will work to double its agricultural trade with Japan and ROK to over 30 billion U.S. dollars in the next 10 years, said Chinese minister of agriculture and rural affairs Han Changfu at the Third Trilateral Agriculture Ministers' Meeting.

Han said the three countries are strongly complementary in agricultural technologies, industries and markets, adding they should deepen cooperation in agriculture and rural development, agricultural technologies, and agricultural trade.

The three countries have made in-depth exchanges and cooperation in agricultural policies and animal disease control since the establishment of the trilateral agricultural cooperation mechanism, Han said.

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China's Dalian Exchange to relax position limits on iron ore, select agriculture futures

[Reuters, 23-11-2018] China's Dalian Commodity Exchange (DCE) will relax its risk management restrictions on some futures, including its first internationalised flagship iron ore contracts, in an effort to lure more investors to boost liquidity.

It will double the maximum position holding limits for iron ore, soymeal, corn, soybean oil and palm oil contracts, according to a statement issued by the DCE on Friday 23 November.

Individual clients and member companies of the DCE, excluding futures brokerages, will be allowed to hold up to 40,000 lots of iron ore contracts if total position the contracts is below 400,000. That will be twice the amount of current restrictions of 20,000 lots.

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China's first batch of farmed salmon to hit festival market

[Xinhua, 21-11-2018] China's first batch of farmed salmon will hit the market ahead of the Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar New Year, in February, said the operator of "Shenlan 1," the world's largest fully-submersible fish cage.

The fish farm, located 130 sea miles east of Rizhao City in eastern China's Shandong Province, takes advantage of a cold water mass in the Yellow Sea to cultivate the deep-sea fish species.

The huge steel facility built by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group CO., Ltd., a subsidiary of the China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation, is 35 meters tall, which is roughly as tall as an 11-story building. It measures 180 meters in width, allowing it to accommodate 300,000 salmon.

Chinese consumers have shown a growing appetite for fresh seafood.

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In China's Himalayas, a wine "flying above the clouds"

[NDTV, 12-11-2018] A \$300 bottle of wine sold in the United States and Europe is made in the unlikeliest of places: at the foot of the Himalayas in China, where farmers sing traditional songs while picking grapes.

A stone's throw away from Tibet, Ao Yun's vineyards are located beneath the sacred Meili mountain at altitudes ranging up from 2,200 metres (7,218 feet) in the southwestern province of Yunnan.

While wine consumption is soaring in China, it is not known as a major producer, but French luxury giant Moet Hennessy has bet on this remote location to show the Asian country can produce a first-class bottle of red.

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Scottish exporter targets big China deals

[Drinksint, 07-11-2018] Scotland's leading exporter of craft beer and spirits JW Filshill International, has embarked on a two-week trade visit to China as it seeks to build on a series of export deals.

JW Filshill International, a subsidiary of JW Filshill, has spent the past four and a half years showcasing Scottish craft beer and spirits at trade shows internationally as well as establishing trading links with key importers and buyers.

Director Christopher Miller said: "By attending trade shows, meeting buyers, building relationships with importers, and yes, judging at the Chinese Craft Beer Awards, we are showcasing Scotland's craft drinks story to a sophisticated consumer who appreciates high quality products with a captivating provenance.

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Outbreak of African Swine Fever in China

China cracks down on obstruction of African swine fever reporting

[Reuters, 21-11-2018] China's agriculture ministry said on Wednesday 21 November it was issuing new rules to stop behaviour that was leading to the spread of African swine fever, a highly contagious disease that has already killed hundreds of thousands of pigs in the country.

The new rules state that it is strictly forbidden to delay or obstruct reporting of new outbreaks, to issue false test reports or illegal health certificates and to illegally dispose of infected animals.

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African swine fever suspected to be in animal feed in China

[Reuters, 11-11-2018] Major Chinese animal feed maker Tangrenshen Group reported on Sunday 11 November that feed produced by one of its units was suspected to have been contaminated with African swine fever, raising fears of its spread further across the country.

The suspected contamination occurred during inspections after an outbreak of African swine fever on a farm in Qingyang county located in the eastern Chinese province of Anhui.

In a statement to the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, the company said that local authorities in Qingyang reported that feed samples contained suspected traces of the African swine fever virus. The feed was manufactured by its 51 percent-owned subsidiary Bili Meiyingwei Nutrition Feedstuff, it said.

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China reports first African swine fever case in wild boar

[Reuters, 16-11-2018] China said it had found African swine fever virus in a dead wild boar in Jilin province, the agriculture ministry said in a statement released on its website on Friday 16 November, the nation's first case confirmed among wild hogs.

The new case was found in Baishan city, Jilin province, in northeastern China, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said.

Local authorities have inspected neighboring areas where wild boars frequent and carried out a comprehensive sterilization of all pig farms in the area, the statement said.

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African swine fever outbreaks in November

Date	Location	Details
3 Nov	Yangqu County, Shanxi Province	Click here for details
4 Nov	Fengdu County, Chongqing City	Click here for details
5 Nov	Baojing County, Hunan Province	Click here for details
7 Nov	Luotian County, Hubei Province	Click here for details
8 Nov	Three cases in Lianyuan County, Hunan Province; Longjing City, Jilin Province; and Wannian County, Jiangxi Provinces respectively	Click here for details
8 Nov	Putian City, Fujian Province	Click here for details
10 Nov	Qingyang County, Anhui Province	Click here for details
13 Nov	Wuxue City, Hubei Province	Click here for details
15 Nov	Xishui County, Hubei Province	Click here for details
16 Nov	Gao County, Sichuan Province	Click here for details
16 Nov	A case of ASF in wild boar was confirmed Baishan City, Jilin Province	Click here for details
16 Nov	Weixin County, Yunnan Province	Click here for details
17 Nov	Three cases in Poyang County, Jiangxi Province; Chenggong District, Kunming City, Yunnan Province; Xinjin County, Chengdu City, Sichuan Province respectively	Click here for details
17 Nov	Jinshan District, Shanghai	Click here for details
19 Nov	Harbin City, Heilongjiang Province	Click here for details
20 Nov	Huaihua City, Hunan Province	Click here for details
23 Nov	Fangshan District, Beijing	Click here for details
23 Nov	Baotou City, Inner Mongolia	Click here for details
26 Nov	Yangxin County, Hubei Province	Click here for details
30 Nov	Ninghe District, Tianjin City	Click here for details

African swine fever restrictions lifted in November

Date	Location	Details
8 Nov	Songyuan City, Jilin Province	Click here for details
12 Nov	Jiamusi City, Heilongjiang Province	Click here for details
22 Nov	Yingkou City, Liaoning province	Click here for details
25 Nov	Dalian City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
26 Nov	Anshan City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details
28 Nov	Datong City, Shanxi Province	Click here for details
29 Nov	Kaiyuan City, Liaoning Province	Click here for details

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